

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is known that 3-[4-(8-fluoro-5,11-dihydrobenz[b]oxepino[4,3-b]pyridin-11-ylidene)piperidino]propionic acid is useful as an antiallergic agent of amphoteric type (for example, see JP 6-192263 A and Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, Vol.38, No.3, pages 496-507). It is also known that, as an improved process for producing this compound, 8-fluoro-11-oxo-5,11-dihydrobenz[b]oxepino[4,3-b]pyridine is reacted with 3-(4-oxo-piperidin-1-yl)-propionic acid ethyl ester in the presence of a low-valency titanium to give 3-[4-(8-fluoro-5,11-dihydrobenz[b]oxepino[4,3-b]pyridin-11-ylidene)piperidino]propionic acid ethyl ester and then the resulting compound is hydrolyzed, whereby the process steps are largely reduced, the reaction yield and the overall yield are largely improved, and the production efficiency is remarkably enhanced (see ~~JP 2000-338574 A~~ JP2002-338574 A).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the process described in ~~JP 2000-338574 A~~ JP2002-338574 A which is an improved process, 8-fluoro-11-oxo-5,11-dihydrobenz[b]oxepino[4,3-b]pyridine is reacted with 3-(4-oxo-piperidin-1-yl)-propionic acid ethyl ester to give 3-[4-(8-fluoro-5,11-dihydrobenz[b]oxepino[4,3-b]pyridin-11-ylidene)piperidino]propionic acid ethyl ester, water and a base are added thereto, and the product is extracted with an organic solvent and then hydrolyzed to obtain an aimed compound. According to this process, however, a muddy insoluble matter is formed during the extraction. It was revealed that the insoluble matter is difficult to remove by filtration and, particularly in an industrial scale production, separation of the insoluble matter by filtration is very difficult. In addition, it was revealed that a

column purification step is necessary to remove the metals used in the process and the organic impurities which are mainly by-produced during production and thus the process is industrially disadvantageous.